

HEALTH

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## BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Chairman of the Council. ... H. Ryden, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman. ... D. Smith, Esq., J.P.

COUNCILLORS.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Councillor.</u>
Balderstone. ...	T. Harrison.
Billington.. ...	B. I. Hacking.
Clayton-le-Dale... ..	J. H. Ainsworth.
Dinckley.... ...	J. W. Brewer.
Eccleshill.. ...	D. Smith, J.P.
Livesey. ...	G. Harwood.
	(Died 16th April, 1943)
	A. C. Duckworth.
	(Elected 5th June, 1943)
Mellor. ...	E. L. Heyworth, J.P.
Osbaldeston. ...	A. F. Walsh,
	(On active service)
Pleasington. ...	R. Yates.
Ramsgreave.. ...	T. Abbott.
Salesbury... ..	W. H. Widders.
Tockholes... ..	Rev: W. Hodgkin.
Wilpshire... ..	H. Ryden, J.P.
Yate & Pickup Bank. ...	J. Yates, J.P.

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health. ...	C. M. Bradley, L.R.C.P.; L.R.C.S
Assistant Medical Officer of Health. ...	T. J. Burke, M.R.C.S; L.R.C.P.
	(Joined His Majesty's Forces, February, 1943)
Sanitary Inspector. ...	A. W. Craven, M.S.I.A.
	Cert: Meat Inspector.
	Cert: Smoke Inspector.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector.. ...	J. K. Hunt,
	(Joined His Majesty's Forces, 26th June, 1943)
	F. Forrest,
	(Appointed 28th June, 1943)
Clerk, (Health Department) ...	S. Pilkington,
	(Joined His Majesty's Forces 18th Sept. 1943)
	M. Haworth,
	(Appointed 11th Sept. 1943)

42, Wellington St., (St. John's),  
BLACKBURN.  
September, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Blackburn Rural District Council.

Gentlemen:

We have pleasure in presenting the fifth wartime Annual Report  
on the work of the Health Department for the year 1943.

Yours obediently,

C. M. BRADLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

A. W. CRAVEN,

Sanitary Inspector.

## Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area in Acres. ....	19,472.
Rateable Value. ....	£76,537.
Estimated Product of ld. Rate... ..	£307.
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population. ...	12.56.
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population. ...	13.69.

The chief industries are cotton spinning and weaving, paper making, brick making and agriculture.

There were no unusual or excessive mortality or any sickness of special note during the year.

The health of the District continues to be good.

### General Provision of Health Services.

No adjustments or changes were made during the year and all existing arrangements such as ambulance facilities continue.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

### Water Supply.

There were no extensions to the water mains belonging to the County Borough of Blackburn and Municipal Borough of Darwen, which two Authorities serve the largest proportion of houses within the district. All premises served by a pipe supply have the water laid on over the sink and none are served by a stand pipe. Both these Water Authorities give a constant supply of good water to those parts to which their mains extend, which is to approximately three quarters of the district. A further portion of the district is served by the Mellor Water Company, which is not quite so satisfactory. All Parishes have certain portions of them which rely on springs, etc., for their water supply, but Tockholes, Yate and Pickup Bank and Mellor are in most urgent need of a piped supply of water for the needs of dwellinghouses and dairy farms.

Six samples of water were taken and sent for bacteriological analysis during the year; 3 were satisfactory, 3 unsatisfactory. All these were taken from a supply to several farms in the Parish of Mellor. The first revealed manurial contamination, but on further investigation and more samples being taken, the pollution was traced to its source and excluded from the supply. The last sample taken showed the water to be fit for domestic use.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

There were no extensions to the sewerage system, general maintenance work only was carried out.

One country house found to be discharging crude sewage into a ditch was connected to a properly constructed disposal plant.

### Closet Accommodation.

Privy Middens. ....	Nil.
Pail Closets.. ....	786.
Dry Ashpits... ..	58.
Fresh Water Closets. ....	2,582.
Waste Water Closets. ....	81.
Moveable Ashbins....	1,887.
Pail Closets converted to fresh water closets.. ....	2.
Number of houses at which moveable ...	
Ashbins have been substituted for ...	
Ashpits.. ....	21.

During the year the Council have continued to purchase dustbins for resale. This has proved to be very popular with many householders owing to the difficulty of obtaining dustbins privately.

## Public Cleansing.

The arrangements commenced last year for the change over from



the contract system for collection of household refuse to direct labour was completed during the year. The Council now have one Karrier Bantam Refuse Collector and one Morris two-ton Truck employed full time on the collection of household refuse, night soil and salvage. Various labour and other wartime difficulties were experienced in this service during the year, but nevertheless an improvement over the contract system is now apparent.

The following figures summarise the amount of refuse collected by your own men and the contractors during the year.

<u>Visits to</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Pans</u> <u>Emptied.</u>	<u>Bins</u> <u>Emptied.</u>	<u>Loads.</u>	<u>T. C. Q.</u>
120,448.	33,363.	85,929.	1,491.	2950. 18. -.

#### Salvage.

The following weights of Salvaged materials were collected and salvaged during the year.

<u>Material.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>				<u>Approx: Value.</u>		
	<u>T.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>Q.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>£.</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
Paper.	70.	7.	1.	-.	472.	12.	-.
Ferrous Metals.	35.	-.	2.	-.	34.	6.	-.
Non Ferrous Metals.	1.	1.	2.	19.	36.	16.	6.
Kitchen Waste.	31.	5.	2.	-.	46.	18.	3.
Textiles.	6.	2.	2.	19.	126.	2.	-.
Bones.	13.	-.	-.	16.	3.	2.	5.
Rubber.	2.11.	-.	-.	-.	6.	7.	6.
Bottles & Jars.	2794	doz:			58.	2.	5.
	147.	1.	2.	26.			
	2794	doz:			£ 784.	7.	1.

#### Sanitary Inspections.

Number of Premises Visited.	...	...	...	424.
Defects or Nuisances Found.	...	...	...	29.
Number Abated..	...	...	...	27.
Informal Notices Served....	...	...	...	29.
Statutory Notices Served...	...	...	...	Nil.

The above table of visits does not include re-visits and routine inspections at which no action was found to be necessary.

#### Smoke Abatement.

Several observations on Factory Chimneys were made, but no flagrant emissions of black smoke were observed.

As in former years the absence of Bye Laws under Section 104 of the Public Health Act, 1936, made proceedings under this heading very difficult, and no statutory action was therefore attempted.

#### Bed Bug Infestation.

No new infestations came to light during the year.

#### Housing.

Housing conditions are generally fairly good, although some action is necessary in several parts of the district, and it appears that the time is now approaching when action under the Housing Acts should be taken.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### Milk Supply.

In spite of all other work every effort was made to increase the number of inspections of dairy farms and in a number of instances alterations and improvements have taken place.

During the year 128 samples were taken and sent for the

Methylene Blue Reductase and B. Coli tests; of these, 83 were satisfactory and 45 failed to pass the test. In each case after unsatisfactory samples had been taken, they were followed up and advice given to the farmer as to where his methods were wrong. In most cases samples taken after the advice being given proved to be satisfactory.

It appears that the unsatisfactory samples were due in the main to two causes; these were:-

1. The imperfect sterilisation of utensils; and
2. Milk being insufficiently cooled, due either to absence or inadequacy of the water supply.

In the former case the use of chemical sterilising agents for the utensils was found to be extremely useful in dealing with the trouble.

In addition to the above, 10 samples of milk were taken and sent for the bacteriological test for Tuberculosis; 9 of these were negative and one positive.

#### Meat and Other Foods.

All carcasses, including pigs slaughtered by farmers under Ministry of Food licence, were inspected immediately after slaughter. The numbers were:-

<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep &amp; Lambs.</u>	<u>Swine.</u>
47.	14.	52.	103.

#### Meat and Offal Surrendered.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Weight.</u> <u>Lbs.</u>
<u>Beef.</u>	
Generalised Tuberculosis.	1,320.
Localised Tuberculosis.	200.
<u>Beef Offal.</u>	
Mastitis.	68.
Distomatosis.	193.
Localised Tuberculosis.	320.
Generalised Tuberculosis.	300.
<u>Mutton.</u>	
Extensive laceration and bruising.	45.
Acute nephritis.	40.
<u>Mutton Offal.</u>	
Extensive laceration and bruising.	25.
Acute nephritis.	25.
<u>Pork.</u>	
Septicaemia.	115.
<u>Pig Offal.</u>	
Septicaemia.	45.
Necrosis.	4.
Localised Tuberculosis.	148.

#### Prevalance and Control of Infectious Diseases.

There were no large outbreaks of infectious diseases during the year and all cases notified were either from very small outbreaks or were sporadic. The whole of the cases of Dysentery notified occurred amongst patients at an Institution within the district.

The arrangement whereby Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at Police Stations throughout the Area for the use of General Practitioners was continued.



Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Total cases at all ages.	under 1.	1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-20.	20-35.	35-65.	65 & Over.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total number of Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	26.			1.	1.	3.	10.	4.	2.	5.			13.	
Diphtheria.	6.						1.		2.	3.			4.	
Measles.	22.		1.	2.	4.	3.	9.	1.		2.				
Whooping Cough.	28.	1.	1.	4.	2.	4.	14.	1.			1.			
Pneumonia.	36.						2.	3.	9.	10.	7.	5.		8.
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	1.								1.				1.	
Dysentery.	100.				1.	1.	9.	6.	14.	39.	28.	2.		1.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2.	2.												
Erysipelas.	6.								2.	2.	2.			
Total.	227.	3.	2.	7.	8.	11.	45.	15.	30.	61.	38.	7.	18.	9.

Tuberculosis: New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	M. Respiratory.	F. Respiratory.	M. Non Respiratory.	F. Non Respiratory.	M. Respiratory.	F. Respiratory.	M. Non Respiratory.	F. Non Respiratory.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10 years.	-	-	1.	1.	-	-	-	1.
10-15 years.	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-	-
15-20 years.	1.	-	-	1.	-	1.	-	-
20-25 years.	2.	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
25-35 years.	2.	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45 years.	1.	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 years.	1.	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
55-65 years.	1.	-	-	-	2.	-	-	-
Over 65 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	8.	2.	1.	3.	4.	1.	-	1.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Sessions for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria were held periodically at the Lancashire County Council Dental Clinic, Lord Street, Blackburn, and the number of children immunised during the year was as under:-

Ages-years.	No: of children completely immunised.	No: of children who ceased to attend before completion of Course.	Type of Prophylactic used.
1.	26.	-	A.P.T.
2.	26.	-	Wellcome.
3.	18.	-	"
4.	23.	1.	"
5.	18.	1.	"
6.	17.	-	"
7.	15.	-	"
8.	14.	1.	"
9.	20.	-	"
10.	14.	1.	"
11 & over.	39.	1.	"
Total.	230.	5.	

The percentages of the child population of the district which had been immunised against Diphtheria to the end of 1943 were:-

Pre-School children.	...	...	52.4.
School children. ...	...	...	90.22.

No case of Diphtheria was notified from amongst the immunised children.

*W. M. ...*  
*Arthur W. ...*